

H.R.555, also known as the **Family Telephone Connection Protection Act of 2007**, was introduced on January 18, 2007 in the United States House of Representatives, by Illinois Congressman Bobby Rush, and referred to the House Committee on Energy on Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. **The American Jail Association has joined the National Sheriffs' Association in opposition to H.R. 555.** *Click here to view a sample of the AJA letter to Congress on this issue.*

According to the Library of Congress Congressional Research Service, H.R. 555, would amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to consider the following types of regulation of inmate telephone service: (1) prescribing a maximum uniform per-minute rate (paid to telephone service providers); (2) prescribing a maximum uniform service connection or other per-call rate; (3) prescribing variable maximum rates depending on factors such as carrier costs or the size of the correctional facility; (4) requiring providers of inmate telephone service to offer both collect calling and debit account services; (5) prohibiting the payment of commissions by such providers to administrators of correctional facilities; and (6) requiring such administrators to allow more than one service provider at a facility so that prisoners have a choice.

A copy of the complete text of H.R. 555 can be obtained by clicking here. For more information, contact AJA's Executive Director, Gwyn Smith-Ingley.